

Mortimer, Adam (MAG)

From: Letang, Chris (SOLGEN)
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:05 PM
To: DiTommaso, Mario (SOLGEN)
Cc: Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN); Okada, Marc (SOLGEN)
Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 22

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-22 at 1900 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022, the federal government invoked the *Emergencies Act* to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures will be geographically targeted and time limited.

On February 21, 2022, the House of Commons voted in support of the government's invocation of the *Emergencies Act*.

Threats to Public Officials

Police Reporting

Peel Regional Police (PRP) reported that an arson occurred at the office of the Liberal MP for Mississauga East-Cooksville during the early morning of February 22, 2022. A note had been placed on the office door, but was illegible due to water damage. PRP advised that an incendiary device may have been thrown through the office window, and that the lenses of on-site security cameras had been obscured by spray paint. The investigation is ongoing.

Open Source

Social media messaging released the names of Members of Parliament (MPs) who voted in support of the government's invocation of the *Emergencies Act*. Additionally, police reporting notes that threats were received by one MP as the measure was under debate.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Police continue to maintain security around the Ottawa downtown core. Police have reduced the size of the secured area, with checkpoints being collapsed to Laurier Avenue. This has opened up more of the red zone to civilian movement with increased roving patrols.

Police continue to monitor sites where convoy participants have regrouped in Arnprior, Ontario and Hawkesbury, Ontario. People manning the entrance to the Arnprior site were instructed to advise police they were on private property. There are approximately 30 vehicles on the field and several other cleared out fields, each with a portable toilet. The Arnprior group advised OPP Provincial Liaison Team (PLT) members that they are currently deciding on whether or not they should go home or return to Ottawa to protest on foot. PLT is continuing to monitor the situation and liaise with group.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging from some leadership figures within the convoy are advising supporters to leave Ottawa. Other leadership figures have called on supporters to re-group and plan for next steps.

A number of leadership figures associated with the convoy were in court today. An Alberta-based organizer and spokeswoman of the convoy charged with counselling to commit mischief, an organizer of the Freedom Convoy, was denied bail this morning (February 22, 2022) in Ottawa.

An Alberta based conspiracy theorist and social media influencer charged with mischief; counselling to commit the offence of mischief; counselling to commit the offence of disobey court order and; counselling to commit the offence of obstruct police, will be held in custody until a decision is reached on his bail on February 25, 2022.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

A protest unrelated to the Freedom Convoy occurred this afternoon in Queen's Park. No issues were reported.

The Legislature was back in session today. Members and staff are advised to enter the area via the Bay Street and Wellesley Street W. check point. A member of the Legislative Protective Service is positioned there to assist Toronto Police.

Toronto Police Service (TPS) reports that all roads have been re-opened with exception of Hospital Row and Queen's Park (University Ave. from Bloor St. to Queen St.). Hoskin Avenue can now be used to access Queen's Park Crescent SB and Wellesley Street to Queen's Park Crescent NB are now open. Queen's Park Crescent remains closed SB at Bloor St. West and NB at College St.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging indicates that 'Freedom Toronto 2022' intends to continue their march on a daily basis.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic is flowing freely.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge

Police Reporting

Traffic is flowing; no concerns or issues to report.

The Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) reported that a convoy returning from Ottawa arrived in the region in the evening of February 21, 2022. Dense crowds attended in support of the convoy, and traffic was obstructed. No further issues were reported.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

19 Tractors, three rock trucks and one transport truck and trailer remain in a field adjacent to Forest Road.

Ports of Entry – Nipigon

Police Reporting

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Other Potential Activity

Open Source Reporting

Media reporting indicates that on February 19, 2022, convoy protestors at the legislature in Winnipeg, Manitoba, stated that they would not move until they get a meeting with the Prime Minister. The reporting notes that the blockade of the main street leading to the Manitoba Legislative Building is entering its third week. A spokesman for the group reportedly indicated that he is disappointed with the police actions in Ottawa.

Open source research identified social media messaging from a prominent anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist calling for nation-wide “Freedom Chain” across the Trans-Canada Highway on March, 5, 2022. The Toronto-based influencer and organizer has figured prominently as an opponent of public health measures intended to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border

crossing with 5,000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named; it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Other local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule below for additional information.

ASSESSMENT

All available information indicates that “freedom convoy” protests will continue for the foreseeable future.

Some participants in the Ottawa blockade have clearly stated their intent to continue engaging in ongoing protests. For some, the goal extends beyond COVID-19 vaccine requirements to compelling the current federal government to step down. Others appear to espouse a broader anti-government and anti-authority ideology. The organizers and protestors of the Ottawa blockade have demonstrated their capability to conduct a highly disruptive protest and to inspire other similar protests elsewhere. The Ottawa blockade continues to inspire protests elsewhere in Ontario, Canada and the United States. Any such actions elsewhere are highly likely to encourage protestors in Canada to continue to organize and carry out future actions.

Ongoing local protests, convoys, civil disobedience, and, possibly, acts of mischief may be expected against government facilities and elected officials at all levels; law enforcement; and any individual or entity, such as towing companies, that have opposed the blockade or assisted law enforcement to end it.

It is highly likely that critical infrastructure, such as major highways and roadways, border crossings, bridges, airports and railways may be targets for disruption. Simultaneous or sequential protests may be organized with little or no warning in different locations to keep law enforcement reactive, and to strain law enforcement resources.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 21-25

Freedom Week

Organizer associated to the Ottawa truck convoy are encouraging individuals to participate in a week of civil disobedience

February 24, 2022

Rothsay, New Brunswick

East Coast Hold Line – Convoy to Ottawa

Friday, February 25, 2022

Hawkesbury

Support Protest for those arrested in Ottawa

Saturday February 26, 2022

Trans-Canada Highway

"Freedom Chain" across Canada to take place on Trans-Canada Highway

Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

Hamilton**Freedom of Choice Rally – City Hall****Toronto Freedom March**

Posted on the Freedom Toronto Facebook Page. Attendance unknown.

Windsor

Bake Sale for the Freedom Fighter Defence

Peterborough

Slow Roll meeting at Metro Parking Lot 1154 Chemong Rd.

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

Detroit, Michigan

Potential Protest at Canadian Embassy in Detroit, Michigan

Washington, D.C., USA

Several trucker convoys are expected to converge on Washington DC in early to mid-March.

Disruptions to traffic expected on major roadways beginning 23 Feb 2022. Major disruptions anticipated in the Washington DC area from 05-07 March 22. May impact the Canadian Diplomatic Mission located at 501 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC.

Chris Letang

Provincial Security Advisor

Office of the Provincial Security Advisor

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Province of Ontario

(416) 419-3219

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this email is confidential. It may also be privileged or protected by other legal rules. If you are not the intended recipient, please let us know by email reply and permanently delete the message from your system. You may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone.